

NPIC ROUTING SLIP

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CIA-RDP78B05708A000500070009-3

FROM:

Acting DD/I

DATE:

20 Jan

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REMARKS:

File - Photography 2

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BYE-21668-64
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17 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR CIA MEMBER UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Reconnaissance Support for Operations in South Vietnam

1. This is a briefing memorandum on this subject which will be discussed at USIB on 17 January 1964.

2. From the recent interchange of cables with Saigon it is uncertain whether comprehensive baseline U-2 photography of South Vietnam would be useful to counterinsurgency operations. However, it is the feeling of the Agency components that since the U-2 is available and since U-2 photography may be helpful, it would be wise to run at least two missions to attempt to get comprehensive coverage of South Vietnam as well as such border areas of Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam as may be obtained from overflights of South Vietnam. The photography would be processed in the SI, read-out, and selected graphics prepared and annotated in that form which would be most suitable to COMUSMACV in South Vietnam.

3. Information received from the military here and from the NPIC representatives in Saigon leaves a very confused picture as to the adequacy of PI and related resources to take the fullest advantage of the benefits to be derived from any sort of photo reconnaissance, U-2 or otherwise. It is our feeling that it would be practically impossible to sort out this confusion from here. Rather we would suggest that the Director approach General Carroll and propose to him one of two courses of action:

a. That two officers one each from DIA and CIA be sent to Saigon to examine the present photo reconnaissance system and make recommendations for any improvements deemed needed.

b. That an NPIC team be sent immediately to Saigon under terms of reference agreed and transmitted to MACV by the JCS permitting the team to take such action as might be necessary to re-organize and strengthen the Saigon effort. The team should be sent for a minimum of three months to be extended as necessary thereafter. It should include at a minimum one or two CIA intelligence officers thoroughly familiar with the use of photo interpretation in intelligence processes and six to eight trained PI's drawn from NPIC (without regard to service).

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5. Meanwhile, through discussions in COMOR a recommendation on the handling of photography over South Vietnam, and in a particular instance over North Vietnam, is in the hands of Board members via their COMOR member for discussion at the Board today. The purpose of these recommendations (attached) is to provide for operational use of the photography in South Vietnam. It is the Agency position that you concur in these recommendations.

LS/
R. J. SMITH
Acting Deputy Director (Intelligence)

Attachment: COMOR cable

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16 January 1964

FOR COMOR MEMBERS FROM CHAIRMAN

**SUBJECT: HANDLING OF PHOTOGRAPHY TAKEN OVER SOUTH VIETNAM AND HANDLING
OF PHOTOGRAPHY OF NORTH VIETNAM**

**1. MEMBERS OF COMOR ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING TO THEIR
OSIB PRINCIPALS OPENING BUSINESS 17 JANUARY FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE
BOARD MEETING THAT DATE.**

**2. ON SUBJECT OF PHOTOGRAPHY TAKEN OVER SOUTH VIETNAM RECOMMEND
THE FOLLOWING AS DECISION ON HANDLING.**

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